

TARDEC/NAC Focus

TARDEC's mission is to research, develop, engineer, leverage, and provide advanced systems integration of emerging and maturing technologies into the Army's ground systems and to support equipment throughout their life cycle. TARDEC is focused on partnering with our customers, industry and academia to harness new technologies for emerging systems, reduce operating and maintenance costs of fielded systems and assure that our soldiers have the best performing, most reliable, and easiest to maintain ground vehicles in the world.

The primary mission of the NAC is to serve as a catalyst linking industry, academia and the government in the development and exchange of automotive technologies that will benefit all sectors.

The SBIR Program solves critical problems through the innovative talents of small businesses. It provides opportunities to small, high-tech companies and research institutes to participate in government-sponsored R&D efforts in key technology areas. The NAC SBIR Program specifically seeks out those companies interested in automotive technologies that will contribute to the Army's mission and have potential commercial applications. The Program begins with establishing feasibility and technical merit and ends with the integrating of a product into Army programs and/or the commercial market. Requirements on how to participate in the SBIR program can be found on the Internet at <http://www.acq.osd.mil/sadbu/sbir/>.

Information

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<http://www.tacom.army.mil/tardec/nac/>

DoD home page <http://www.acq.osd.mil/sadbu/sbir/>

DTIC home page <http://www.dtic.dla.mil/dtic/sbir>

Army home page <http://www.aro.army.mil/arowash/rt/>

DoD help desk 866-216-4095 (8am to 8pm EST)
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U.S. Army Tank-Automotive Research, Development & Engineering Center (TARDEC)



Small
Business
Innovation
Research
(SBIR)
Program

— UNITED STATES ARMY —
NAC
NATIONAL AUTOMOTIVE CENTER

Overview

In 1982, Congress established the Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) Program to assure representation of small businesses in Federal Research and Development (R&D). The Program was enhanced by ACT HR 5667 of December 2000 and reauthorized until 2008. The SBIR Program is administered in accordance with the Small Business Administration (SBA) SBIR Policy Directive.

The SBIR Program for the U.S. Army's Tank Automotive Armament Command (TACOM) is managed by the Tank-Automotive Research, Development, & Engineering Center's (TARDEC) National Automotive Center (NAC). The goal of the SBIR program is two-fold. First, to tap into the innovation and creativity of small businesses to help meet TARDEC's R&D objectives. Second, to develop technologies, products and software that can be commercialized through sales in the private sector or back to the government.

TARDEC's major areas of interest are:

- ADVANCED AUTOMOTIVE TECHNOLOGY
- MILITARY GROUND VEHICLES
- TANK AUTOMOTIVE LABORATORIES
- AUTOMOTIVE BASED PROPULSION SYSTEMS
- ADVANCED COMPOSITE MATERIALS
- PETROLEUM AND WATER TECHNOLOGIES
- ROBOTICS TECHNOLOGY
- HIGH PERFORMANCE COMPUTING AND SIMULATION

TARDEC is responsible for the development, acquisition and sustainment of...

- COMBAT VEHICLES
- TACTICAL VEHICLES
- TRAILERS
- MATERIEL HANDLING EQUIPMENT
- CONSTRUCTION EQUIPMENT
- TACTICAL BRIDGES
- FUEL & WATER DISTRIBUTION SYSTEMS
- PETROLEUM & LUBRICATION EQUIPMENT
- WATERCRAFT
- RAIL

Three Phase Approach

TACOM scientists and engineers develop topics that address technology needs. Topics go through a rigorous review process beginning at the local Command and concluding with a final selection board at the Department of Defense (DoD). Topics are then posted on the DoD's web site (<http://www.acq.osd.mil/sadbu/sbir/>) during the spring DoD pre-solicitation between May and June. Small businesses enter the SBIR process by submitting Phase I proposals against published topics by mid August.

Phase I – Feasibility Study

Phase I projects are competitively selected from the proposals submitted against the topics. Once the proposals are received they go through an evaluation and selection process to determine the best innovative project. One in ten quality proposals are awarded a Phase I contract. Phase I is a feasibility study in which the small businesses will receive up to \$70,000 for a six month project to demonstrate the scientific, technical and commercial feasibility of the selected concept. An option is available for up to \$50,000 for interim activities between Phase I and Phase II, if the project is selected to receive a Phase II award.

Phase II – Development

Successful Phase I projects are invited to participate in the next phase of the SBIR program. Phase II represents a major R&D effort, culminating in a well-defined deliverable prototype. The small business will receive up to \$730,000 over a two-year period to develop a technology, product, or software that not only addresses the needs of TACOM and the Army, but also has potential in the private sector for commercialization. All qualified Phase I efforts are invited to participate in a Phase II project. Fifty percent are selected and funded for a Phase II award.

Phase III - Commercialization

Commercialization is the ultimate goal of every SBIR effort. While no SBIR funding is available in Phase III, private sector funding is pursued to commercialize Phase II projects, or a federal agency may fund Phase III activities to enable its own application of the innovation. Phase III SBIR contracts do not require competition, nor is a justification and approval (J&A) required for the sole source procurement. As early as Phase I, the Army SBIR Program provides two additional incentives to build strategic partners for Phase III investment and marketing. **FAST TRACK** - Provides Phase I firms (who attract outside investors that will match Phase II SBIR funds) an accelerated Phase II process including evaluation and award. Matching rates are 4:1 for new firms and 1:1 for previous Phase II awardees.

Phase II Plus - A Phase II enhancement program to extend R&D efforts to meet product, process or service requirements of a third-party investor. It also accelerates the Phase II project into Phase III. The SBIR Program provides matching third-party funds up to \$250,000 and allows an existing Phase II project to be extended for up to one year to perform additional R&D.